

7400 Helmsdale Rd
Bethesda, MD 20817
7814 March 18, 1999

Commissioner Jane E. Henney, M.D.,
FDA (HFA-88)
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

Seventy percent of the people agree with the FDA's decision to allow foods to be irradiated. I do also, and I have many reasons and examples to support my opinion.

Irradiation kills bugs and bacteria on food. Health and Fitness says "irradiation protects human health by killing parasites...which causes food poisoning." Irradiation kills Salmonella, E Coli, triching worms, and prevents illnesses. Food poisoning in fruit is a big issue which irradiation would really help.

Irradiation preserves food and extends shelf life by years. I read in Health and Fitness, that the founder of Radiation Technology, Martin Welt, says, "We see the day when you can go into a supermarket and buy a barbecued chicken that has been cooked, vacuum-packed, and irradiated. It can sit on the shelf for eight years, and all you'll have to do is heat it up." Irradiation provides

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an alternative to preservatives and current sterilization practices. It preserves food without making it radioactive, as says John Yaukey of Gannet News Service. Also, food is only 5 cents more a pound to irradiate.

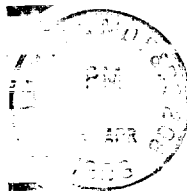
Right now, it is hard to import foreign, tropical fruits for fear of illnesses and diseases. Irradiation will make it easier to import tropical delicacies such as papayas and mangoes. Mediterranean Fruit Fly is a big worry with imported fruits. Also, irradiation slows the ripening process. When you get tropical fruits, they are normally over-ripe. Since the fruits ripening process will be slowed, they won't be over-ripe.

All in all, I am for food irradiation because it seems like a helpful step in technology. I am sure, that because of the decision to allow irradiation, the world will be a better place. I definitely agree with your decision.

Sincerely,

Ariel Werner

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